

SUMMARY
—OF—
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, STILL-BIRTHS, DEATHS, &c.
—IN—
NEW YORK CITY.
Compared with 332 American and Foreign Cities.
FOR THE YEAR 1878.
And also
THE MORTALITY FROM SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT CAUSES,
Which took place in New York City during the past 75 years.

BY
JOHN T. NAGLE, M.D.,

Member of the American Public Health Association, New York County Medical Society; New York Public Health Association; Membre Adherent Congrès International D'Hygiene de Paris; Membre Correspondant Etranger de la Société Royale de Médecine Publique de Belgique; Membre Correspondant Etranger de la Société de Médecine Publique et d'Hygiene Professionnelle de Paris; Formerly Physician to the New York Eastern Dispensary; Member of the N. Y. Med. Journ. Ass'n; Act. Ass't. Surg. U. S. Army.

Reprinted from "THE HOSPITAL GAZETTE" for December 13, 1879.



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SUMMARY OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, STILL-BIRTHS, DEATHS, &c.,
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 AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CITIES,
 FOR THE YEAR 1878 ;

AND ALSO THE MORTALITY FROM SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT CAUSES WHICH
 TOOK PLACE IN NEW YORK CITY DURING THE PAST SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS,

BY

JOHN T. NAGLE, M.D.,

Member of the American Public Health Association, New York County Medical Society, New
 York Public Health Association, &c., &c.

NEW YORK CITY.

*† *Area*.—The area of New York City is 24,893.156 acres, or 38.89 square miles. Of this number the annexed district comprising the 23rd and 24th wards, contains 12,317.346 acres, or 19.25 square miles.

* *Length of Streets Paved in New York City* (not including the annexed district, 23rd and 24th wards,) is 330 miles.

* *Length of Streets Unpaved in New York City* (not including the annexed district, 23rd and 24th wards) is 51 miles.

† *Length of Streets Paved in the 23rd and 24th Wards of New York City* is 2.57 miles.

† *Length of Streets and Roads partly Macadamized in the 23rd and 24th Wards* is 12.60 miles.

Length of Streets and Roads Unpaved in the 23rd and 24th Wards is 123.83 miles.

* *Length of Sewers in New York City* (not including the 23rd and 24th wards) is 369.19 miles.

† *Length of Sewers in 23rd and 24th Wards* is 5.81 miles.

* *Elevation of New York City above High Water* (not including 23rd and 24th wards) varies from 7 to 245 feet.

† *Mean Elevation of 23rd and 24th Wards*—82 feet.

* *Point of greatest Elevation above High Water in New York City* (excluding 23rd and 24th wards) is Bennett's Building at Fort Washington, which is 245 feet.

† *Point of greatest Elevation above High Water in the 23rd and 24th Wards* is about 700 feet east of Christ Church, at intersection of South street and Riversdale Avenue, which is 284 feet 5 inches.

* *Points of Least Elevation in New York City* (exclusive of 23rd and 24th wards) are at the corner of Grand street and south 5th Avenue, and generally along the river front, which are 7 feet above high water.

† *Points of Least Elevation in the 23rd and 24th Wards*.—The area on the water front from Westchester Avenue and Bronx River to Hudson River and Yonkers line.

Population.—The United States census taken in June, 1870, gave New York City a population of 942,292; 457,117 males and 485,175 females; and the New York State census, taken in June, 1875, gave the City a population of 1,041,886; 506,922 males and 534,964 females. Of this number but 36,194 were in the annexed district (23rd and 24th wards) which contains nearly half the area of the city. An annual rate of increase of population of 1.31 per cent. would there-

* From Department of Public Works,
 † " " " " " " Parks.

fore appear to have taken place. The estimated population in the middle of the year 1878 was 1,083,371; 527,106 males, and 556,265 females.

‡ *Assessed Valuation of Property.*—The Department of Taxes and Assessments have estimated the value of real estate in New York City for 1878 at

	\$900,855,700
And the personal estate for 1878 at	197,532,075
Total,	\$1,098,387,775

§ *Immigration.*—The number of emigrants that arrived in this city from foreign countries during the year 1878 was 121,369; of this number 75,347 were aliens.

Dwellings.—The New York State census of 1875 showed the city to have 67,126 dwellings; of this number 16,032 were frame, 40,632 brick, and 10,462 stone; the total valuation was \$1,086,619,017, of which the frame dwellings amounted to \$108,839,487; brick, \$639,713,530; and stone, \$338,066,000.

Density.—The average number of persons contained in each house was 15.52 (nearly double that of London which, was 7.8); to each acre 41.85, and to the square mile, 26,790.59.

The summary of the statistics of births, marriages, still-births and deaths which is herein presented has been collated from certificates filed in the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Health Department and the source from which these certificates were obtained is as follows, viz.: The certificates upon which the compilation of the statistics which relate to death and its causes are obtained exclusively from physicians;* the births and still-births from the certificates of physicians and midwives, except in a few instances where a birth occurs without the attendance of a physician or midwife it is returned by any person who may have been present at the birth. The certificates of marriage are obtained from clergymen, magistrates and others who are empowered by law to solemnize them, hence the accuracy and completeness of the statistics are based upon the reports of the persons above mentioned.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year 1878 was 25,729, this is an increase of 160 compared with the number reported during the preceding year and represents an annual birth rate of 23.74 per 1000 of the estimated population.

This low birth rate would show an apparent loss of population during the year which was only supplied by immigration. The statistics of births, however, are not reliable, the number which actually take place annually cannot fall short of 38,000, leaving upward of 12,000 births unreported. This can be verified by the records of mortality from January 1st, 1871, to Dec. 31st, 1875, a period of 5 years, which showed the total deaths of children during this period, under 1 year of age, to be 43,282 or an average

‡ From Department of Public Taxes and Assessments.

§ "Commissioners of Emigration.

*3033 of the certificates of deaths and still-births were received from the coroners during the year, each coroner is accompanied by a qualified physician who views the body with him and makes an autopsy on it, if necessary, preparatory to the inquest, the physician fills the cause of death, &c., on the certificate.

of 8,656 deaths under this age annually. The New York State census of 1875 showed that 27,261 native white children under 1 year old were alive in this city in the year 1875. The number of colored children of the same age being 315. Assuming that all these colored children were natives of this city, the population of children who had not attained their first year and were living when the census was taken, was 27,576; if the average number of deaths of children under 1 year old who died annually for the 5 years ending Dec. 31st, 1875, be added to this number it would show a total of 36,232 children whose births must have taken place during the year; this would be equivalent to an annual birth rate of 34.77 to the 1,000 inhabitants. Estimating at this rate, the total births in this city for the year 1878 would be 37,669, which is 10,661 in excess of the deaths. Unless the law requiring the registration of births be stringently enforced, I see no way of obtaining any reliable information regarding this important branch of statistics. The 25,729 voluntary contributions to the birth record will show the share or proportion that the native, foreign and colored inhabitants furnished during the year. The New York State census of 1875 for this city gave a native white population of 581,374; a foreign white population of 445,258, and a colored population of 15,254. This would give a birth rate of 13.85 to the 1,000 native white inhabitants; 38.92 to the foreign white, and 22.81 to the colored. If we analyze the census to discover the reason of this apparent small birth rate of the native compared with the foreign population, we find that out of a total native white population of 581,374 residing in this city there were but 273,407 who were 15 years and over, and of this number 141,031 were females; while out of the total foreign white population of 445,258, 422,099 were 15 years and upward, and of this number 220,473 were females. We would, therefore, have in a population of 141,031 native white females, 9,536 births, and in a population of 220,473 foreign-born white women, 16,143 births, or 67.62 births to every 1,000 native white women 15 years of age and more, and 73.22 to every 1,000 foreign-born white women 15 years of age and over, or 1 birth to every 14.79 of the native white women over 15 years of age, and 1 birth to every 13.66 of the foreign-born white females 15 years of age and over. From the returns received in the Bureau of Vital Statistics it appears that the births, as well as the deaths, are more numerous among the poorer portion of the inhabitants than among their more prosperous neighbors. The certificates of births received during the year show that to every 1,000 of the natives of the following countries enumerated in the population of this city by the New York State census of 1875 the number of births is as follows:—

Germany, 51.67; Ireland, 26.26; England, 27.87; Scotland, 28.16; British America, 29.69; Bohemia, 169.48; Austria and Hungary, 66.01; Poland, 75.06; and France, 31.49. This comparison of the

birth rate of the foreign-born residents shows that those who practice midwifery among the Irish, English, Scotch and British Americans are either not as scrupulously exact in registering the births they attend as those who practice among the other nationalities, or that the German, Bohemian, Austrian and Polish population has increased at a considerably greater ratio than the Irish, English and Scotch.

It is an interesting fact, however, to notice that although the number of births by native mothers (according to the returns received) was 9,536; German mothers 7,788, and Irish mothers 5,180. The Irish mothers, although credited with the lowest number of births of these three nationalities, had the highest number of multiple births; the number of twin and triplet births by mothers of these three nationalities were as follows:—Ireland, 93; United States, 76; and Germany, 47.

The age of 1,533 mothers who bore children during the year was stated to be between 15 and 20 years; 5,817 between 20 and 25 years; 6,700 between 25 and 30 years; 5,167 between 30 and 35 years; 2,878 between 35 and 40 years; 936 between 40 and 45 years; 157 between 45 and 50 years; and 5 who were upwards of 50 years of age had children.

2,840 native mothers bore their 1st child, 1,927 their 2nd, 1,426 their 3rd, 991 their 4th, 626 their 5th, 388 their 6th, 241 their 7th, 180 their 8th, 122 their 9th, 66 their 10th, 39 their 11th, 17 their 12th, 8th their 13th, and 5 their 14th.

2,611 foreign-born mothers bore their 1st child, 2,307 their 2nd, 2,241 their 3rd, 1,927 their 4th, 1,561 their 5th, 1,189 their 6th, 875 their 7th, 640 their 8th, 418 their 9th, 274 their 10th, 151 their 11th, 70 their 12th, 44 their 13th, 15 their 14th, 10 their 15th, 4 their 16th, and 3 their 17th.

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages which were reported to have taken place in this city during the year 1878 was 7,629, of this number 7,435 were white males, 7,447 white females, 194 were colored males, and 182 colored females; 3,348 males and 4,112 females were born in the United States; 4,169 males and 3,396 females were born in foreign countries; 5,988 males and 6,127 females were married the first time, 1,104 males and 887 females the second time; 71 males and 33 females ventured on their third marriage and but two males on their fourth. 189 males and 1,959 females were married under 20 years of age; 2,648 males and 3,122 females between 20 and 25 years; 2,249 males and 1,312 females between 25 and 30 years; 1,130 males and 546 females between 30 and 35 years; 624 males and 337 females between 35 and 40 years; 334 males and 146 females between 40 and 45 years; 189 males and 80 females between 45 and 50 years; 109 males and 35 females between 50 and 55 years; 66 males and 14 females between 55 and 60 years; 24 males and 1 female between 60 and 65 years; 7 males and 2 females between 65 and 70 years;

10 males and 1 female were married between 70 and 80 years of age, and but 1 male was married between 80 and 90 years. 5,369 marriages were between bachelors and spinsters, 484 bachelors married widows, 418 widowers married widows, 707 widowers married spinsters and 12 white females married colored men. The marriage rate of this city, like the birth rate, is not complete, there being but 7.04 marriages returned to every 1,000 of the estimated population, this rate I think would be increased to 10 marriages to the 1,000 inhabitants if complete returns were made by those who are legally empowered to perform the marriage ceremony. The marriage, unlike that of birth rate, is higher among the native population than the foreign, the number of marriages to every 1,000 native females, 15 years of age and over, was 29.15, or 1 to every 34.29 of the population who had attained this age, while the number of marriages to every 1,000 foreign females of the same age was but 15.40, or 1 to every 64.92 of the population who had attained 15 years of age. Some definite and intelligible legislation should be had in regard to the marriage law, as it exists at present, it defines who shall perform the marriage ceremony and no marriage is allowed to be recorded in the Bureau of Vital Statistics unless received from a person who is legally entitled to perform it (the marriage ceremony). The State law may have been intended to regulate the subject of marriage in this State, if so, it is certainly a failure, as the courts recognize and decide that a man and woman living together as man and wife and publicly acknowledging themselves as such are legally married.

The vague interpretation of lawful marriage in this State encourages immorality and often causes tedious litigations (when property is left) after the demise of one of the parties who have lived together without the performance of the marriage ceremony by some legally constituted authority, and sometimes questionable evidence is introduced for the purpose of proving that persons who were supposed to be living in doubtful relations during life, acknowledged themselves to be husband and wife at some period prior to the death of one of the parties. The family or relatives of a person who may have died, after living in this manner, are often induced, for fear of the scandal or notoriety that may be occasioned by a contest, to make a settlement or compromise with the questionable wife or husband. The subject of marriage is certainly important enough to need legislative action and should be settled beyond the possibility of a doubt. Justice to the legitimate heirs and their social status demand that some definite and proper enactment be made on this subject.

From the returns received in the Bureau of Vital Statistics the number of persons married during the year to every 1,000 of the population, according to the New York State census of 1875, is as follows:

Ireland 7.33, or one to every 136.36 of the Irish population;
Germany 22.87, or one to every 43.71 of the German population;

England 19.99, or one to every 50.02 of the English population ; Scotland 18.21, or one to every 54.93 of the Scotch population ; British America, 26.88 or one to every 37.20 of the British American population ; Bohemia 62.56, or one to every 15.98 of the Bohemian population ; Austria and Hungary 58.11, or one to every 17.21 of the Austro-Hungarian population ; Poland 18.25, or one to every 54.80 of the Polish population, and of France 22.16, or one to every 45.13 natives of France.

STILL BIRTHS.

The number of still births reported to have occurred in New York City during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1878, was 2,192—1,229 males and 946 females ; the sex of 17 not having been stated. There were 2.02 still births to every 1,000 of the estimated population. The number of mothers who were born in the United States was 725, and those who were foreign born were 1,353. There was one still birth to every 194.52 females of the age of 15 years and more who were born in the United States ; one to every 162.95 foreign born, and one to every 90.54 colored females of the above-mentioned ages. The native-born females who were 15 years of age and over had a less proportionate number of still-births than the foreign-born females of the same age, and the proportion of colored females who had still-born infants was nearly double that of the white. The relative proportion of the parentage of still-born infants to every 1,000 of the population (census of 1875) is as follows : United States, 2.24 ; Ireland, 5.76 ; Germany, 6.98 ; England, 4.35 ; Scotland, 3.41 ; British America, 2.41 ; Bohemia, 11.17 ; Austria and Hungary, 7.33 ; Poland, 11.70, and France, 3.07. The periods of utero gestation of one was stated to be one month ; 13, two months ; 33, three months ; 79, four months ; 123, five months ; 234, six months ; 279, seven months ; 336, eight months ; 1,062, nine months, and 21, ten months.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths that occurred in this city during the year 1878 was 27,008 ; of this number 13,997 were males, and 13,011 females ; 26,570 were white, and 438 colored ; 7,100 of the deaths were under one year old, 9,716 under two, and 12,410, or 45.95 per cent. of the total deaths for the year were under five years of age. This is the lowest percentage of deaths of children under five years of age to the total mortality that has taken place in this city since the year 1849.

The highest daily mortality during the year occurred on July 18th and 19th. On the former day 143 deaths took place ; of this number 98 were children under five years of age, and in the latter date 148 deaths occurred, of which 93 were children under five years old. The least daily mortality was on the 21st of November, when there were but 41 deaths, while 43 deaths occurred on the 23d of September.

The number of deaths to every 1,000 of the estimated population during the year was 24.93, and the average daily number of deaths was 73.99. Assuming that the population is the same as that given in the New York State census of 1875—1,041,886, the death rate of the city would be 25.92 to the 1,000, the number of deaths to every 1,000 children under one year of age would be 255.56; between one and two, 103.18; between 2 and 3, 47.45; between 3 and 4, 35.13; between 4 and 5, 23.51; from 5 to 10, 9.82; 10 to 15, 3.62; 15 to 20, 5.40; 20 to 25, 9.88; 25 to 30, 11.67; 30 to 35, 14.45; 35 to 40, 16.06; 40 to 45, 18.06; 45 to 50, 24.08; 50 to 55, 27.56; 55 to 60, 43.63; 60 to 65, 43.36; 65 to 70, 79.32; 70 to 75, 100.26; 75 to 80, 148.95; 80 to 90, 232.29; 90 to 100, 246.43, and 100 and upwards, 363.64, showing a death rate of 96.83 per 1,000 of the population of children under five years of age. The lowest death rate was between ten and fifteen years of age, when there were but 3.62 deaths to every 1,000 of the population between these ages, and the highest rate was at the age of ninety years and upwards, when there were 363.64 deaths to every 1,000 of the population between these ages.

14,354 deaths were reported to have occurred in tenement houses, and 4,320 in institutions.

The highest number of deaths reported to have occurred in any enement house during the year was nine and this number was reported to have taken place at 35 Baxter street; 8 deaths each were reported at 625 East 12th St., and 105 Sullivan St.; 7 deaths each were reported at 290 Front St., 67 Oliver St., 134 West 28th St. and 98 Willet St.; 6 deaths each were reported in 23 houses, 5 deaths each were reported in 83 houses, 4 deaths each were reported in 215 houses, 3 deaths each were reported in 658 houses, 2 deaths each were reported in 2,138 houses and 1 death each was reported in 6,638 houses.

53.15 per cent. of the total yearly mortality was in tenement houses* and 15.99 in institutions. During the past 3 years 43,356 of the deaths reported or 52.61 per cent. of the total mortality was in tenement houses and 13,334 deaths or 16.18 per cent. were reported in institutions. The number of deaths during the third quarter exceeded by 981 that of any of the other quarters of the year. The highest mortality and mean temperature of the year was in the month of July, the deaths having averaged 99.16 daily for this month, which is 25.17 above the average daily number of deaths for the year. The mean temperature for this month was 77.84 degrees Fahr.

The month of August had the next highest number of deaths, the average daily number being 79.06, and also the next highest mean temperature which was 74.20 Fahr.

*A tenement house is defined by law to be a house occupied by more than 3 families living independently of each other.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The destruction of infants during the warm months although gradually decreasing is still excessive and adds largely to the annual death rate, this mortality is principally observed among the children of the poor particularly those who have been deprived of breast milk and proper nourishment. The death rate is highest among those who dwell in tenement houses. This is largely attributed to the lack of means among the poor to provide proper food, fresh air, medical attendance and care, also to the foul odors generated by badly ventilated tenements and the natural results of overcrowding, imperfect drainage, unclean streets, improper removal of ashes, garbage, etc.

This excessive mortality of children during the summer months is verified by the aggregate monthly mortality for the past eight years. The total number of deaths for this period was 230,506. Of this number 65,970 were under one year, 88,891 were under two years, and 111,072, or 48.19 per centum of the total were under five years of age. Of the deaths of children under five years of age 27,341 were from diarrhoeal diseases, 10,733 of this number having died in July, and 6,482 in August, making the total deaths from diarrhoeal diseases, under five years of age, during the months of July and August for the past eight years, 17,215, or 62.96 per cent. of all the deaths that took place from diarrhoeal diseases for the first quinquennial period of life during the eight years. The average mortality daily for the past eight years was 78.89, and during this period there were but three months that had a higher daily average. Those were the months of March, which had 79.83 deaths daily, July, which had 115.29 deaths daily, and August, which had 90.34 deaths daily. The percentage of deaths of children under five years to the total mortality during the eight years was 48.19; for the month of July during this period it was 64.28, for August 57.87, for September 51.52, and for June 50, which were the only months that had a higher percentage. The lowest percentage of deaths of children under five years old to the total mortality during the eight years was in the month of November, when it was 41.10, December 41.43, and April 42.75. These figures appear to demonstrate that the months of July, August, September and June, named in their order of fatality, were the unhealthiest months for children, while November, December and April were the healthiest.

PHTHISIS PULMONALIS.

The highest number of deaths during the year from any single disease was from phthisis pulmonalis or consumption; this disease caused 4,466 deaths. Of this number 2,256 were males and 2,210 females. The highest monthly number of deaths was in March, the number that died during this month being 417.

The most fatal period of life of this disease was between the ages of 25 and 30 years, 280 males and 328 females having died who were

between these ages; the nativity of those who died from consumption during the year is as follows: U. S., 1,880; Ireland, 1,473; Germany, 689; and other foreign countries, 424; the deaths of females exceeded the males among the natives of the United States and Ireland and the deaths of males were greater among the Germans and natives of other foreign countries than the females. It is a noteworthy fact that whatever may be the physical condition, mode of living, habits and adaptability to climate of the various nationalities which compose the population of this city, the death rate of the German population is much lower from this disease than the Irish, being 4.2 to the 1,000 of their population, while the Irish was 7.4 to the 1,000, and the other foreign residents 5.2 to the 1,000. The total deaths in this city for the past 5 years from phthisis pulmonalis was 20,910; of this number 8,170-3,990 males and 4,180 females—were born in the United States; 7,307-3,442 males and 3,865 females—were born in Ireland; 3,357-2,115 males and 1,242 females—were born in Germany and 2,076-1,248 males and 828 females—were born in other foreign countries.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE.

Nine hundred and fourteen deaths were attributed to this disease during the year, being a decrease of 6 as compared with the number for the year 1877, and 41 less than the number that occurred during the year 1876. Of the total number of deaths 497 were males and 417 females and 27 were colored; 353 were born in the United States; 327 in Ireland; 138 in Germany; 29 in England; 15 in Scotland; 10 in France and the balance in other foreign countries, excepting those of unknown birth. During the past five years 4,525 deaths occurred from this disease, of which 2,392 were males and 2,133 females and 142 were colored; 1,593 were natives of the United States; 1,720 of Ireland; 730 of Germany; 184 of England; 73 of Scotland, and 38 of France. The natives of Ireland lead the deaths from this disease during the years 1874-5-6, but in 1877-8 the natives of the United States had a plurality.

INTEMPERANCE.

The deaths from this cause, and the diseases attributed to the use of intoxicating drinks, were 223. Of this number 46 were born in the U. S., 108 in Ireland, 36 in Germany, 10 in England, 8 in Canada; 3 in France, 2 in Italy, 2 in Scotland, 1 each in South America and Sweden; 2 in Switzerland, and 4 were of unknown nationality. 58 were single, 125 married, 24 widowed, and the condition of 16 was not stated. Bright's Disease and intemperance combined were the cause of 44 deaths, and nephritis and intemperance, 6. Diseases of the kidneys were more frequently involved from the use of alcoholic liquors than any of the other organs. The number of deaths from intemperance is not exact; physicians often fail to state it on

the death certificates out of regard to the feelings and importunities of the relatives or friends of the decedents. On this account the deaths from this very important cause are incomplete.

CONTAGIOUS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The deaths from this class of diseases are much more prevalent in tenement houses than in the other class of dwellings, the number of deaths from measles during the year was 272; scarlatina, 1,099; small-pox, 2; diphtheria, 1,007; whooping cough, 382; typhus fever, 4; and typhoid fever, 245. Of the deaths from measles 188 were in tenement houses; of scarlatina, 702; of diphtheria, 641; of whooping cough, 265; and of typhoid fever, 121. The deaths in institutions from measles were 33; scarlatina, 17; diphtheria, 24; whooping cough, 23; and typhoid fever, 49. The highest number of deaths from measles, (40), scarlatina (144), diphtheria (114), was in the 19th ward, and from whooping cough (80) in the 22nd.

DIARRHOEAL DISEASES.

The deaths from diarrhoeal diseases, which included cholera infantum, cholera morbus, diarrhoea, dysentery, entero-colitis and diarrhoeal enteritis, and gastro-enteritis, were 2,945—1,550 males, and 1,393 females; of this number 2,598 were children who had not attained their fifth year, and of the latter 1,049 took place in the month of July. 1,758 of the deaths from diarrhoeal diseases took place in tenement houses, 861 in all other kinds of dwellings, and 326 in institutions.

DEATHS BY SUICIDE.

The deaths by suicide during the year number 142, being 6 less than the number that occurred during the preceding year; of this number 116 were males, and 26 were females. 42 were single, 83 married, 9 were widowed, and the condition of 8 was unknown. The natives of Germany furnished the highest number of deaths by suicide—58 of this nationality having killed themselves; the natives of the United States followed with 31; Ireland with 22; England with 8; France with 5; Bohemia, Canada and Switzerland with 2 each; Austria, Belgium, Cuba, Holland, Italy, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and South America with 1 each, and 3 were of unknown nationality. The means used by these nationalities for self-destruction were as follows: One Austrian poisoned himself with arsenic; 1 Bohemian shot himself, and another poisoned himself with Paris green; 1 Belgian cut his throat with a razor; 1 Canadian shot himself, and another jumped from the third tier of the city prison; 1 Cuban shot himself; 2 natives of England cut their throats with razors, 1 cut her throat with a knife, 1 drowned himself, 1 jumped from a window, 2 poisoned themselves with laudanum, 1 with oxalic acid; 2 natives of France shot themselves, 1 hung himself, 1 jumped from a window, and 1 poisoned herself with strychnia; 2 Germans cut their arms with knives, 5 cut their throats with razors, 1 cut his throat with scissors, 2 drowned themselves, 13 shot themselves,

14 hung themselves, 3 jumped from windows, 7 poisoned themselves with Paris green, 3 with opium, 2 with arsenic, 1 each with hydrocyanic and oxalic acid, 3 with cyanide of potassium and 1 with strychnia; 1 native of Holland poisoned himself with laudanum, 2 natives of Ireland cut their throats with razors, 1 cut his arm, 1 cut his throat with a scissors, 2 drowned themselves, 4 shot themselves, 2 hung themselves, 1 jumped from a window, 8 poisoned themselves with Paris green, and 1 with opium; 1 Italian shot himself; 1 Portuguese jumped from a window; 1 Scotchman poisoned himself with laudanum; 1 Spaniard poisoned himself with some narcotic poison; 1 South American poisoned himself with opium; 2 natives of the United States cut their throats with razors, 3 drowned themselves, 12 shot themselves, 6 hung themselves, 1 jumped from a window, 1 poisoned himself with Paris green, 3 with opium, 1 with phosphorus, 2 with cyanide of potassium; 2 of those of unknown nationality shot themselves, and 1 hung himself.*

The most numerous occupations of suicides were housekeepers 11, clerks 7, and shoemakers 5.

DEATH RATE.

The New York State census of 1875 showed the population of this city to be 1,041,886, of which 1,026,632 were white, and 15,254 colored. 595,843 were natives of the United States, and 446,043 of foreign countries. Of the natives of the United States 125,268 were under five years of age; and of foreign countries, but 2,889 were under this age. The death rate to every 1,000 of the native population was 30.24, and of the foreign, 20.15. The population of the natives of foreign countries residing in this city at the time the census was taken was as follows: Ireland, 199,084; Germany, 165,012; England, 26,913; Scotland, 7,635; France, 9,432; British America, 4,985; Bohemia, 3,133; Austria and Hungary, 3,545; Poland, 5,809; Russia, 2,099; Switzerland, 2,244; Italy, 6,507; Holland, 1,167; Sweden, 1,870; Norway, 527; Cuba and West Indies, 2,285; Spain, 474; Belgium, 478; Denmark, 798; Wales, 667; South America, 293; China, 157; Greece, 65; Portugal, 93; India, 56; Oceanica, 168; Malta, 14; Mexico, 71. According to the census population the death rate to every 1,000 natives of Ireland was 23.24; Germany, 16.34; England, 17.50; Scotland, 19.78; France, 18.24; British America, 25.08; Bohemia, 17.55; Austria and Hungary, 21.16; Poland, 7.92; Russia, 25.72; Switzerland, 29.41; Italy, 15.83; Holland, 31.70; Sweden, 20.86; Norway, 20.87; Cuba and West Indies, 22.32; Spain, 25.32; Belgium, 20.92; Denmark, 25.06; Wales, 25.49; South America, 40.96; China, 19.11; Greece, 30.77; Portugal, 21.50; India, 35.71; Malta, 71.43; Mexico, 14.08, and Australia, 11.90. The death rate of the white population was 25.88, and of the colored, 28.71. Of the parents of the decedents 10 fathers and four mothers were natives of China, 3 fathers and 2 mothers were Greeks, 3 fathers and

* For the deaths from other causes see accompanying table.

2 mothers were Portuguese, 4 fathers and 3 mothers were natives of India, 1 father and 2 mothers were natives of Malta, and 1 each were natives of Australia and Mexico. Of the births reported 2 fathers were natives of China, 1 of Greece, 4 fathers and 1 mother were born in India, and 2 fathers and 2 mothers were born in Mexico. Of the marriages 5 grooms were born in China, 2 in Greece, 1 bride and groom in Portugal, 2 brides and grooms in India, 1 bride and groom in Australia, and 2 brides and grooms in Mexico.*

IMMIGRATION.

The number of alien immigrants that arrived at the port of New York during the three years ending Dec. 31st, 1878, was 198,147. Of this number 31,548 were natives of Ireland, 61,839 of Germany, 24,443 of England, 5,492 of Scotland, 5,037 of France, 659 of British America, 7,052 of Bohemia, 4,328 of Austria and Hungary, 11,363 of Russia, 4,648 of Switzerland, 9,657 of Italy, 1,541 of Holland, 11,565 of Sweden, 7,399 of Norway, 1,777 of Cuba and West Indies, 1,340 of Spain, 640 of Belgium, 5,068 of Denmark, 1,450 of Wales, 432 of South America, 456 of China, 44 of Greece, 63 of Portugal, 70 of India, 84 of Australia, 4 of Malta, 272 of Mexico, and 28 of unknown nationality.

One of the tables that accompanies this summary gives the mortality of New York city, from some of the most prominent causes, together with the deaths of children under five years of age, and the estimated or enumerated population for the last seventy-five years. The other table shows the principal items relating to the births, marriages, still births, deaths, and meteorological observations of this city for the year 1878, and a comparative list of the births, marriages, still-births and deaths from seventeen prominent diseases, with the proportionate mortality of children under five years of age to total deaths (as far as could be ascertained) from official sources from upward of 350 American and foreign cities for the same period.

* For other nationalities and further information in regard to vital statistics see accompanying tables.

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